



## **Resolution on the initiative sent to the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Science of Palacký University on 21 February 2022**

The Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Science, Palacký University (hereafter referred to as EC FoS UP) received an initiative from its member regarding a suspicion of unethical behaviour of the authors of a publication. The suspicion was published on the website pubpeer.com. Most of the authors (including one corresponding author) were employees or students of the Faculty of Science UP at that time. As the publication was recorded in OBD and grants were mentioned in the acknowledgement, the Committee decided to deal with the initiative. The suspicion regards manipulation with presented graphs.

The EC FoS UP first addressed both corresponding authors mentioned in the publication, informed them about the suspicion and the initiated investigation, and asked them to comment on the suspicion. None of the authors responded to the appeal. Then the EC FoS UP received three independent opinions from experts on the method, which was used to create the graphs mentioned. All the experts were convinced that the repetitive noise in the measurements is not authentic. Moreover, one of them even mentioned that the data might be fabricated and calculated with artificially produced noise.

The corresponding authors were informed about the results of the expert opinions and the resolution text of the EC FoS UP. Neither of them responded to the email within the given period.

Based on the expert opinions, the EC FoS UP considers the graphs mentioned to be at least falsified, which is considered a serious violation of the Code of Ethics for employees and students of the Palacký University in Olomouc according to paragraphs 3 and 4, Part III.